



# THE RIVERS SECONDARY COLLEGE

*The heart of secondary education for Lismore*



# THE RIVERS SECONDARY COLLEGE

We welcome you to The Rivers Secondary College and congratulate you on your choice to join us. Located on Bundjalung country, The Rivers Secondary College is the heart of secondary education for Lismore and consists of Kadina High Campus, Lismore High Campus and Richmond River High Campus. The Rivers Secondary College caters for the educational needs of students wishing to pursue academic, vocational and alternate pathways. Our students benefit from specialised programs at each of our comprehensive 7-12 campuses as well as combined college events, sporting teams, shared curriculum and extra-curricular opportunities.

Our friendly learning community is characterized by academic excellence, where each individual is valued and supported to achieve personal success and positive well-being, through evidence-based practices. The curriculum is engaging, accessible and inclusive. With a strong focus on quality teaching, learning and leading we prepare students for the challenges of an ever-changing world which lies ahead of them. In addition to creative thinking, problem solving and technological skill development, all students are supported to establish strong foundations in literacy and numeracy to ensure they are successful lifelong learners.

Students not only feel they are part of a vibrant learning community, they recognise the importance of our connections to the broader community. We have strong relationships with our partner primary schools and are supported by Southern Cross University, TAFE, Lismore Council and a range of non-government organisations. The Rivers Secondary College is continually looking for opportunities for our students to give back and participate in community events and initiatives.

Through the collective expertise of staff in our state-of-the-art trade training facilities, students are able to access cutting edge resources and technology. An emphasis on creative and performing arts have allowed several musicals to be held in Lismore. The extensive farmland available to the campuses enables students to gain valuable insight into primary production. In the sporting arena the college has allowed students to participate and excel at a regional and state level.

Our strong commitment to the values of public education ensures schooling is about more than academic results. It is about shaping individuals who positively contribute to society. Our academic, leadership, sports, arts and student wellbeing curriculum ensure students have the opportunity to develop the necessary life skills for success. The Student Representative Council and School Captains have a strong voice, and lead many of the directions of the college, growing a very cohesive student community. Staff ensure that all students develop the capacity and resilience to meet their social and emotional needs and grow as young people. With our skilled year advisors and support staff, students are supported through this most important journey.

The Campus Principals work collaboratively, with the role of College Executive Principal rotated annually. We look forward to working with you to shape your child's successes into the future.



**Dorothea Panaretos**  
Principal  
Richmond River  
High Campus

**Ian Davies**  
Principal  
Kadina High  
Campus

**Chris Williams**  
Principal  
Lismore High  
Campus

As a college, we are committed to strengthening partnerships with our feeder schools to enhance transition of students from the primary to secondary setting. Orientation days are held at each campus where year 6 students undertake team building and hands-on learning activities that prepare them for their first year at our college.

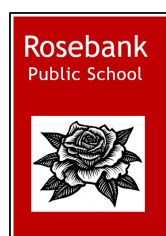


Regular opportunities for collaboration through peer mentoring, sports coaching and the creative and performing arts are also supported. Staff from The Rivers Academy of STEM Excellence work closely with primary schools to facilitate authentic learning experiences through technology.



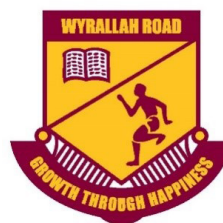
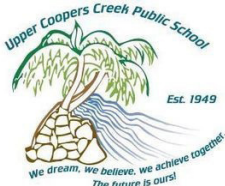
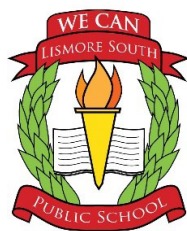
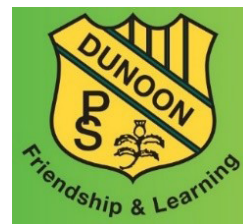
**THE RIVERS**  
SECONDARY COLLEGE

**PRIMARY PARTNER SCHOOLS**



# PRIMARY PARTNER SCHOOLS

The college has an annual Roadshow where staff and students from the three campuses visit primary schools to expose year 5 students to engaging secondary learning experiences. Recent feedback from a Primary Principal- "We LOVE working with your college. So professional, well planned and such strong communication. The Roadshow has become a very important tradition for Stage 3 at our school."



# RIVERS ACADEMY OF STEM EXCELLENCE

STEM education is the learning of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics in an interdisciplinary or integrated approach. Students gain and apply knowledge, deepen their understanding and develop creative and critical thinking skills within an authentic context. It may include inquiry, problem, challenge and project-based learning approaches.

STEM is becoming increasingly important with more and more jobs requiring STEM skills. In order to prepare our students for a changing work environment, The Rivers Secondary College is increasing its focus on STEM education through project days, integrated STEM programs, electives and integrating STEM skills across the entire curriculum. Through these programs, we are able to develop our students' skills in the 21st century fluencies such as; Creative and Critical Thinking, Collaboration, Problem Solving, Digital Citizenship and Global Citizenship. These skills provide students with the platform to be adaptive learners who are prepared for a changing work environment.



In 2021, The Rivers Secondary College will continue to work closely with the NSW Department of Education's Educational Standards Directorate to strengthen the Rivers Academy of STEM Excellence (RASE) and STEM industry school partnerships for the Lismore area. Through provision of real-world, authentic learning opportunities and targeted teacher professional development, the RASE project builds a Kindergarten to Year 12 STEM education continuum, with an emphasis on primary to secondary transition, and promotes pathways to STEM jobs for students across regional NSW. It is a contemporary education model that, in partnership with industry, prepares students for the future workforce by giving them an awareness and understanding of STEM jobs and pathways available as well as a broad set of technical and enterprise skills that include:

- age-appropriate STEM competencies developed through scenario-based, workplace related activities;
- work-readiness, aptitude, communication, presentation, collaboration, critical-thinking, problem-solving, team-work.



# KADINA HIGH CAMPUS

The Rivers Secondary College Kadina High Campus located in Goonellabah, is a proud member of The Rivers Secondary College in Lismore. Kadina High Campus is a quality comprehensive secondary school which provides contemporary educational programs and experiences in a safe, friendly and challenging environment. The campus has developed a nurturing environment in which strong support of all students is paramount, enhancing self-esteem, responsible behaviour and a strong sense of civic pride in our students. The campus has consistent and strong community support which is fundamental to the success of Kadina High Campus.

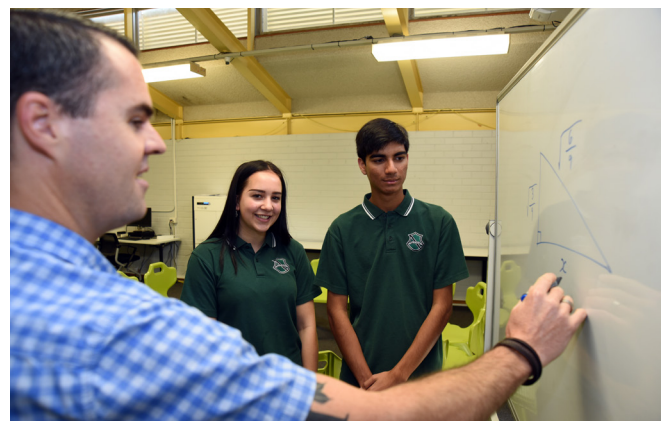


## CAMPUS FOCUS AREA

Kadina High Campus is proud to be part of a world class education system and we do this by focusing on the acquisition of creative, qualified teachers, resources and innovative programs. We promote and recognise individual achievements and excellence across a full range of unique talents and abilities with a goal of preparing students to build skills and resilience to achieve high levels of total wellbeing. The campus environment is based on mutual respect between all staff and students, with a focus on the key principles of Care for Yourself, Care for Others, Care for the Environment and Care about Learning.

## CAMPUS AREAS OF INNOVATION

There is a program of shared delivery of senior curriculum aimed at keeping options broad for all students, and facilitated by cooperative timetable arrangements across the college sites. A Commonwealth funded Trade Training Centre provides industry standard training facilities and





# KADINA HIGH CAMPUS



equipment in the Hospitality, Food Processing, Construction, Metal & Engineering and Primary Industries. Cooperative programs in student and staff wellbeing are focused on sustainable student resilience, effective learning, excellence in teaching practice and staff training and development.

Recently a refurbishment of our Music rooms now offers the highest standards in the performing arts.

## CAMPUS AREAS OF EXCELLENCE

Kadina High Campus has a proven tradition of academic excellence, and our professional and skilled teachers are the key to that excellence. Our teachers are committed to nurturing the best possible outcomes for all students across the curriculum. Year Advisers oversee each year group, supported by the Head Teacher Wellbeing, the Deputy Principal and the School Counsellor. Programs include peer support, mentoring, immunisation program, Love Bites, Deadly Days and merit awards schemes. Public celebration of student and staff achievement are high priorities. Kadina High Campus has an enviable record of outstanding performances in the Higher School Certificate. Students consistently gain entry to leading university courses and regularly achieve ATAR scores above 90. The campus enjoys high academic success across all key learning areas and boasts amongst its successes over the years, many students who have ranked in the very highest levels of achievement at the Higher School Certificate.

## CAMPUS OPPORTUNITIES



Kadina High Campus is providing many valuable opportunities for students with a constant reflection of the changing needs of staff and students. We strive to cater for many diverse cultures and are also committed to increasing the knowledge and understanding of the histories, cultures and experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the First Peoples of Australia. A collaborative process was used to identify three strategic directions and to plan evidence-based strategies to ensure that the staff, campus systems and the community meet the needs of students to successfully manage the complexity and diversity of our world by becoming more fluid, more flexible, more focused on reality, and radically more innovative.

# LISMORE HIGH CAMPUS

The Rivers Secondary College Lismore High Campus is proud to be a comprehensive, co-educational, Year 7-12 High School situated in East Lismore. We have a fast-growing student population and an attached support unit. Lismore High Campus crest has the school motto in Latin, "Spectemur Agendo"; Let us be judged by our actions.

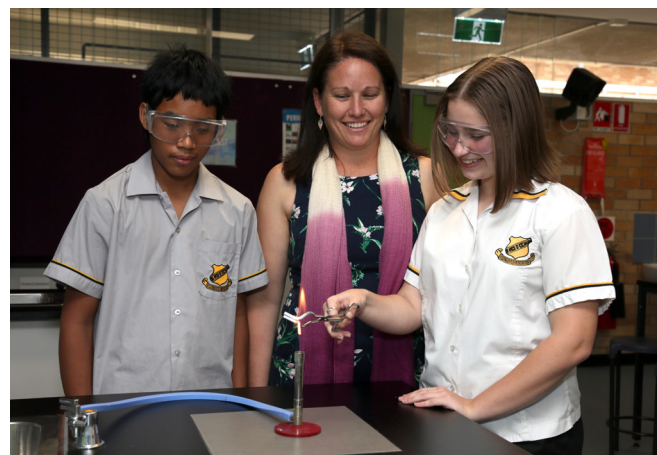


## CAMPUS FOCUS AREA

Lismore High Campus is the oldest public secondary school in Lismore and celebrated its 100-year centenary in 2020. We aim to engage our students in the learning process to set them up for positive futures. To meet the needs of the 21st century learner, our curriculum includes future focused learning with a strong focus on foundation skills in literacy and numeracy. The Campus takes a holistic approach to support student wellbeing, enabling them to reach their personal best. The campus has received NSW Department of Education Secretary's Awards for Outstanding School Initiatives for Excellence in the following programs; Bundjalung Language, Project Based Learning and New Choices programs.

## CAMPUS OPPORTUNITIES

The Nesbitt Award has been a long-standing award at Lismore High Campus with a significant donation of funds for student scholarships. Each of the top academic students in years 7-10 receive approximately \$500-\$1000 and the male and female year 11 duxes receive approximately \$5000-\$10000 each (dependent on interest earned by the trust in the year). Our annual boys and girls leadership camps enable students to develop appropriate skills in being positive contributors to society. There are several senior prefect positions where students take responsibility for a portfolio of interest within the campus. The New Choices program works with students who have disengaged from school, to re-establish trust and understanding to identify barriers to learning.



## CAMPUS AREAS OF EXCELLENCE

Lismore High Campus Advanced Learning Program for High Achievers (ALPHA) classes in year 7 – 8 are led by specialist teachers with training in gifted education. We provide challenges and experiences for gifted and talented students that are more than academic. Our Working Intelligently (WIN) program empowers students to develop healthy study and work ethics which contribute to academic resilience. We have programs in music, sport, art and dance for our gifted students. We strategically use student data to enhance learning outcomes and monitor student progress. There is a strong focus on excellence in Aboriginal Education through cultural and academic support programs.



## CAMPUS AREAS OF INNOVATION

Future focused learning through collaboration using creative and critical thinking to communicate and solve problems is a strong focus. Staff are committed to working collaboratively across subjects to provide students with real world learning opportunities that respond to authentic and engaging challenges. Reading to learn is a schoolwide strategy aimed at enhancing foundation and advanced literacy skills. It is complemented with STEM curriculum and use of design thinking to strengthen student outcomes in numeracy through problem solving. Lismore High Campus hosts freshly renovated learning spaces specifically designed for innovative, twenty-first century teaching including an Aquaponics facility, Gym, Dance studio, upgraded Science laboratories and Industry Standard Trade Training facilities in Hospitality, Metal and Engineering and Construction.

# RICHMOND RIVER HIGH CAMPUS

The Rivers Secondary College Richmond River High Campus has an enrolment of 750 students, including 80 Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students. Richmond River High Campus and our sister campuses work closely together to maximise opportunity for the young people of Lismore and its rural surrounds.

## CAMPUS FOCUS AREA

We at Richmond River High Campus are focused on working with a diverse community to build student engagement in learning through the implementation of quality academic programs, excellent teaching, learning and wellbeing initiatives. The campus vision of "Inspired Learning for Lifelong Success" is fundamental to the values of high expectations, collaboration, inclusivity and respectfulness that drive our shared work. We are working to be the best teachers we can be.



## CAMPUS AREAS OF EXCELLENCE

At Richmond River High Campus we are proud to meet the learning needs of the entire student cohort, regardless of what those individual needs may be.

Our High Achievers classes have operated successfully for many years across the junior school from Year 7 through to Year 10. The campus encourages and supports students to engage with the Aurora College, (a virtual college for gifted students). Our campus farm and fledgling Angus Stud are areas of great significance and a source of enthusiasm and pride. A number of students enjoy the opportunity to successfully show both our



prize winning commercial Speckle Park cattle and our stud Angus cattle.

## CAMPUS AREAS OF INNOVATION

Students who have attended Richmond River High Campus for Year 11 and 12 have the opportunity to apply for the Carr Scholarship to support their first year of University. Five scholarships are awarded each year to students with the highest ATAR. The \$10 000 scholarship is a great help for students to pay university expenses in their first year of tertiary study. A comprehensive Study Skills Program was initiated in Year 7 in 2017. This has been extended across all of Stage 4 to embed strong study skills in our junior students to equip them to perform at the best of their ability across both junior and senior years. At Richmond River High Campus we endeavour to ensure our physical learning spaces are used flexibly to meet a broad range of student learning interest and needs.



## CAMPUS OPPORTUNITIES

Richmond River High Campus is able to offer most subjects our students might desire including high end academic subjects such as Extension 1 and 2 English, Extension 1 and 2 Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Agriculture as well as a variety of challenging Technology and Creative and



Practical Arts subjects and courses. In addition to this our students have an array of VET and TAFE courses available to them in a variety of fields. The Ag plot has a teaching space, tractor parking and various cattle handling facilities as well as a new shed situated across the road in the southern pastures. You will also find chicken tractors used to house our flock of show chickens in the Ag plot. We have a fully equipped gym, the River Theatre performance space, an indoor multipurpose unit with large fans to cater for north coast summers, extensive playing fields and a full commercial kitchen for the teaching of VET Hospitality.



Students currently have the opportunity to represent the college in the following sports:

**BOYS**

- AFL U15
- Baseball Open
- Basketball Open
- Cricket Open
- Football Open
- Hockey Open
- Rugby League Open
- Rugby League U14
- Rugby Union Open (not CHS)
- Rugby Union 15
- Softball Open
- Squash
- Tennis Open
- Water Polo Open
- Water Polo U15

**GIRLS**

- Baseball Open
- Basketball Open
- Cricket Open
- Football Open
- Hockey Open
- Netball Open
- Rugby League Open (not CHS)
- Rugby League U14 (not CHS)
- Softball Open
- Water Polo Open
- Water Polo U15
- Squash
- Tennis Open
- Rugby Union Open
- Rugby Union 15
- Lawn Bowls (Co-Ed)
- Table Tennis (Co-Ed)
- Swimming group event

# COLLEGE SPORTING STRUCTURE

Rivers Sport allows our students from all three campuses to combine and have the opportunity to try out for a Rivers Secondary College representative sporting team. Rivers teams can create an opportunity for students to train and compete with the best athletes from across the college. From an individual and a Rivers team perspective, the increased challenges can lead to greater success against other schools on a local, regional and state level at combined high school competitions. All students in years 7-10 have the added opportunity to participate in combined school sport on Wednesday mornings. With students able to come together from across the college, a greater diversity of sports selection can be offered at campus or at community sporting facilities.

Each year the three campuses play a series of inter-campus gala days where both Junior and Senior campus teams compete for the coveted College Shield. Whether it's on the football or hockey fields, netball or basketball courts representing your campus and playing sport with your friends is as highly valued as winning and taking home the points.

Our students continue to represent themselves, the campuses and the college with great pride and sportsmanship.



The Creative and Performing Arts are strongly fostered across the college with access to skills development, creative collaboration and performance opportunities nourishing students' talents and interests. Students have access to college-wide ensembles that draw on the skills of highly qualified teaching staff and allow for greater access to performance and competitive opportunities.

The college also produces musicals, in 2016 audiences were enraptured by Aladdin, which had high production values including circus performances, a full band and audio-visual projections. In 2018 The Rivers Secondary College in collaboration with our Rivers P-12 community produced the highly successful, locally written River Rock musical. It is anticipated there will be a college musical produced in 2022.

Each year all creative faculties across the college collaborate to host the River MADDness night. This gives College HSC students the opportunity to showcase their final works in Drama, Dance, Music, Visual Arts and Photography. Students are proud to perform and exhibit some of the region's best creative arts pieces to the public. In 2020, Lismore Square approached the College to display major HSC artworks in their gallery.



Visual Arts students can take part in college excursions to Sydney and Brisbane where students tour art galleries, museums and universities to gain inspiration and enrich their creative process. Through the college's close partnership with Southern Cross University, music students are given professional can experience recording in the SCU's world-class recording studios.



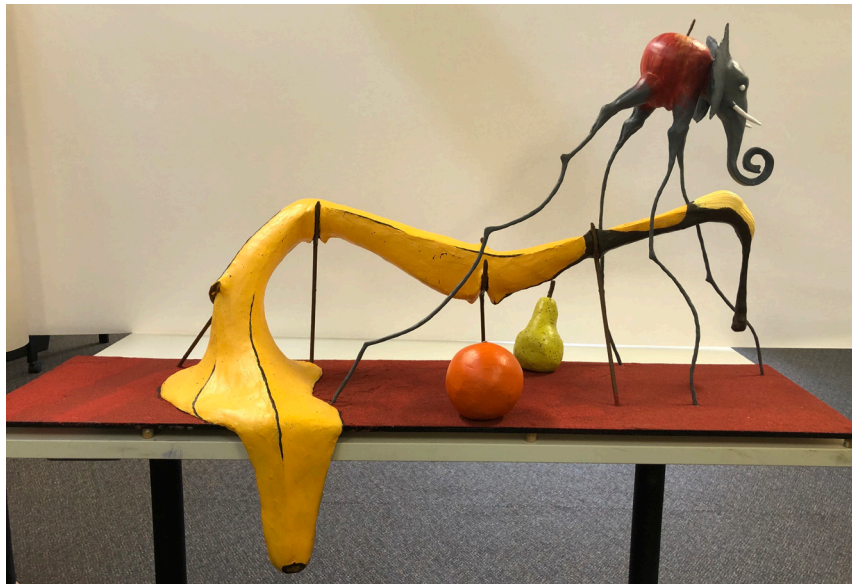


# COLLEGE CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS OPPORTUNITIES

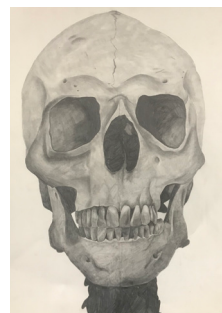
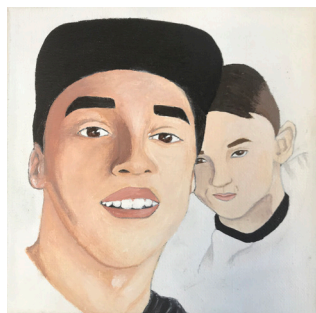


HSC students can gain essential experience in music and theatre production by studying the T-VET Entertainment course, where they will be challenged by being responsible for the sound and production elements for the Byron Blues Festival Busking Competition, as well as other in college events.

The Rivers Secondary College has a long tradition of being a part of the Lismore Performing Arts Festival, where all public primary and secondary schools in the Lismore region perform over a number of nights.



The Rivers Secondary College is a place where creativity and skill are valued and nourished through diverse programs that cater to all students and creative areas.



## INTRODUCTION TO SHARED CURRICULUM

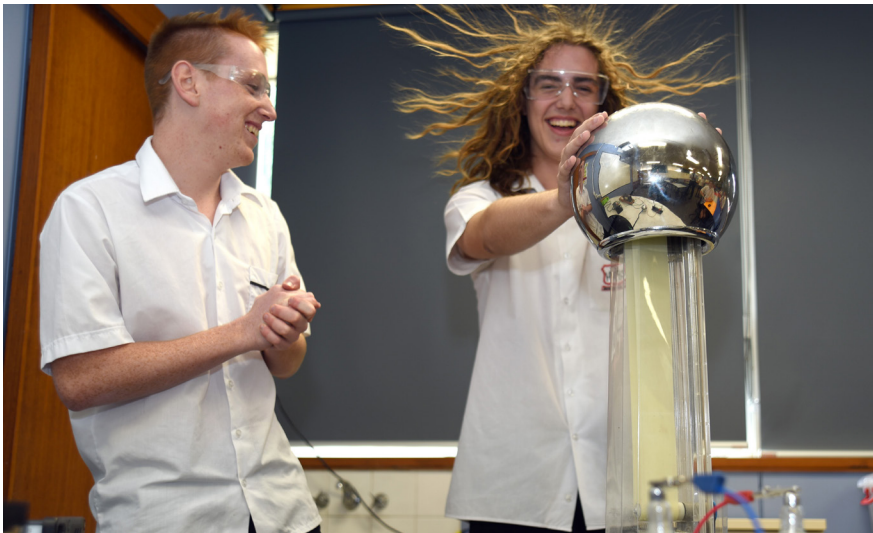
The Rivers Secondary College Shared Curriculum model is now firmly established between Kadina High Campus, Lismore High Campus and Richmond River High Campus and provides unprecedented opportunities for students to access a very broad senior curriculum. By offering Preliminary and HSC subjects across all three campuses to all Rivers students our student's individual education and career goals are catered for and students are able to excel in subjects for which they have the aptitude and enthusiasm to succeed. First class programs and highly qualified teachers provide the ideal learning environment where every student can realise their true potential. Students can now select from a broader range of HSC subject electives, and travel cross-campus to attend classes at other campuses of the college to experience a rich, challenging and supportive senior studies environment.

## STAGE SIX SHARED CURRICULUM SUBJECTS ACROSS THE RIVERS SECONDARY COLLEGE

The extensive list below represents all the courses the college is able to offer. As the timetable is coordinated across the three campuses, approximately half are available as a Shared Curriculum subject for all senior students.

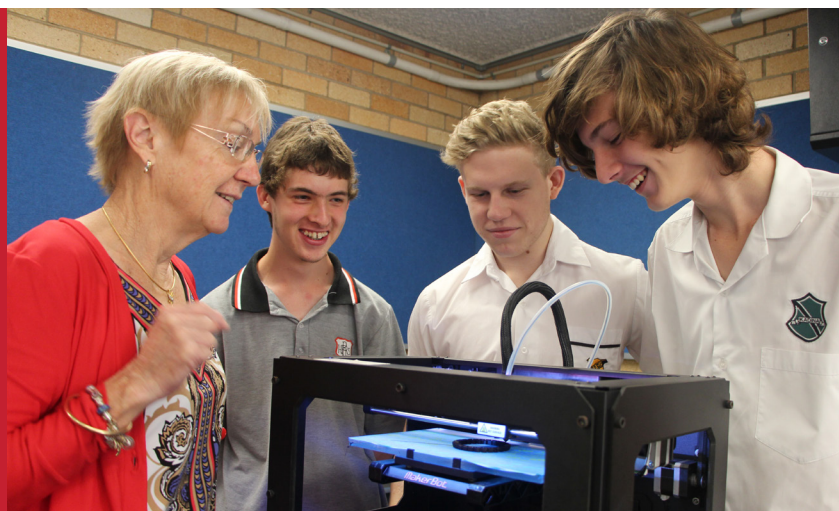
Aboriginal Studies	Mathematics Advanced
Agriculture	Mathematics Extension
Ancient History	Mathematics Standard
Biology	Metal & Engineering
Business Services & Administration	Modern History
Business Studies	Music
Ceramics	Music Industry
Chemistry	PDHPE
Community & Family Studies	Photography
Computing Application Construction	Physics
Dance	Primary Industries
Design & Technology	Retail Services
Drama	Skills for Work & Training
Earth & Environmental Science	Society and Culture
Engineering	Software Design and Development
English Advanced	Sport and Recreation Football
English Extension	Sport Lifestyle and Recreation
English Standard	Sports Coaching
English Studies	Textiles & Design
Entertainment	Visual Arts
Exploring Early Childhood	Visual Design
Food Technology	Work Studies
Geography	
Hospitality	
Hospitality Food & Beverage	
Information Processes & Technology	
Industrial Technology Timber	
Investigating Science	
Japanese Beginners	
Legal Studies	
Marine Studies	

# COLLEGE CURRICULUM STRUCTURE



The 'Rivers bus' is a free service provided by the college allowing senior students studying Shared Curriculum subjects to commute between sites during the school day.

To allow parents and carers of senior students to see all their teachers on Parent Teacher evenings, a Stage 6 Combined Campus Parent Teacher Evening is held on one site, in term 2.



## INTRODUCTION TO VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Vocational Education is a strong college focus with an emphasis on preparing students with the skills, capabilities and confidence to successfully enter the workforce. We aim to give our students the edge in the employment market by offering vocational opportunities that prepare them for the workforce. Expert advice and guidance is available throughout their secondary schooling. Our Careers Advisors are there to support students in finding a pathway to a rewarding vocation, including organising career information days and college excursions to tertiary education facilities. Our college campuses have excellent facilities that allow our students to gain skills in workplaces practices.



Through the North Coast Institute of TAFE our students have access to many courses through the EVET program, where students are able to study a subject at TAFE as part of their preliminary and/or HSC studies. Students spend either a half or one full day at TAFE completing their studies which include theory based and hands on activities ranging from competency based qualifications through to certificate I-III qualifications. Many students use their EVET courses/qualification to continue on with further TAFE study after completing year 12. This curriculum framework includes courses which are accredited for the HSC and provides students with the opportunity to obtain nationally recognised vocational qualifications. Employability skills are features in all Vocational and Education and Training courses units of competency; they are defined as “skills required not only in gaining employment but also to progress within an enterprise, and to achieve one’s potential and contribute successfully to enterprise strategic directions”. The eight Employability Skills are effective communication, teamwork, problem solving, initiative and creativity, planning and organising, self- management, learning and technology.

Our Rivers Shared Curriculum Vocational Education subjects give students the opportunity to join TAFE courses and as well as gain placements in the workforce; our students can be found in cafes, shops, on farms, in childcare centres and on building sites, to name but a few, across the region.

# COLLEGE VOCATIONAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



Vocational Education and Training courses currently available as part of The Rivers Secondary College Shared Curriculum:

- Construction
- Entertainment
- Hospitality
- Metal and Engineering
- Retail Services
- Primary Industries



Academic success can lead to entrance into university or students achieving their career goals through vocational education and training. The Rivers Secondary College is proud to provide students with a supportive environment and a host of opportunities to attain their vocational and career goals.





Each campus has their own team of dedicated staff who work to support Aboriginal Education both at a campus and college level. However all staff have a part to play in providing comprehensive support, guidance and opportunity that meets the individual needs of the students on their campus. This is reflected through a variety of initiatives, programs and practices at each campus. In 2017 a Broncos Girls Academy was set up across the college to provide culturally-based mentor support for all Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander girls in Years 7-12.

A key benefit as a result of the three campuses coming together, has been the opportunity for staff to work together, share ideas, expertise and best practice. There is an ever-increasing number of staff now trained in Stronger Smarter and the 8 Ways pedagogy, all of which is having a positive impact in closing the gap for our Aboriginal students.



Widjabal Wiyabal Dreaming is an initiative we have developed for our potential and aspiring Aboriginal leaders in the college. The program aims to bring students together to participate in a series of cultural and civic leadership workshops. The main focus is to give our Aboriginal young people a chance to work together, share ideas and have a voice in addressing issues that affect them. The program is conducted off-site and allows the students to immerse themselves in learning about and reflecting upon core leadership values in the context of Culture, History, Identity, Awareness and Language. Many of these students go on to



**Bunjulung Jugun**  
Ngali na jugun  
Nagali garima mala jugun  
Wana janjma mala gunu  
gala jugun  
Ngali wana janja mala  
jugun  
Ngali na mala jugun

**Bunjulung Country**  
We belong to this country  
We look after this country  
Don't do wrong around  
here this country  
We don't harm this  
country here  
We belong to this country

Bunjulung Elders

distinguish themselves academically, culturally and within the wider community. Most recently Aboriginal students from the college have been awarded such accolades as the John Lincoln Youth Service Award and the Nanga Mai Award for outstanding student engagement.

NAIDOC is a busy time throughout the college especially as the inter-campus Aboriginal Oztag competition is hotly contested at this time.





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